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Tanis (podcast)

Tanis is a mystery horror fiction podcast executive produced by Terry Miles who also voices the podcast's narrator, Nic Silver. In the show, Silver undertakes a search to discover what and where the mysterious entity Tanis is. While the style of *Tanis* evokes the earlier investigative nonfiction podcast *Serial* and its plot commingles real-world historical events and places with fictional elements, *Tanis*'s production team never acknowledges the story's fictional nature.

After its premiere on October 13, 2015, episodes of *Tanis* were released every two weeks during the first four seasons and weekly during the fifth. Critical reception of the show was positive and it peaked on the U.S. iTunes podcast download chart in the eleventh spot. A television adaptation of the podcast was planned in 2017 and the fifth season of the podcast premiered on September 2, 2020.

Tanis	
Presentation	
Hosted by	Nic Silver
Genre	Mystery Horror Pseudo-documentary
Language	English
Updates	Biweekly (seasons 1–4) Weekly (season 5)
Production	
Production	Terry Miles
Audio format	Podcast (via streaming or downloadable MP3)
No. of seasons	5
No. of episodes	60
Publication	
Original release	October 13, 2015
Related	
Website	www.tanispodcast.com (http://www.tanispodcast.com/)

Content

Synopsis

Nic Silver, a former radio host, discovers references to something called Tanis in two disparate sources. He begins hosting the podcast in an effort to determine what and where Tanis may be, quickly enlisting the help of an "information specialist" known via the username Meerkatnip. Silver comes to believe that Tanis is currently somewhere in the Puget Sound area. His search, aided with information provided by Meerkatnip, leads him to confront a variety of mysterious groups and organizations: Tesla Nova Corporation, a group Silver calls "The Cult of Tanis", and a group known as the Grackles.

Format

Tanis is a mystery horror podcast released every two weeks on iTunes and other services.[1][2] Terry Miles, with the production company Public Radio Alliance, serves as the show's executive producer and provides the voice work for Silver, who Miles refers to as his "cousin" and who is listed as the show's other executive producer.[1][3] Episodes of the show take approximately one week to plot and write, another week to record, and two weeks to mix, edit, and score. Dialogue is recorded where it occurs in the

narrative, such that a scene which takes place in *Tanis* in a living room would be recorded in an actual living room. *Tanis* is scored with backing music and features a musical intro song by Miles's former band, Ashley Park. Financial support for the podcast comes from listeners via Patreon and sponsors, for whose products and services ads are integrated into the production.[3]

The podcast was described as "deep fiction" by *The Guardian* because, while it blends real-world and fictional events and people into its narrative, the show's creators and characters never acknowledge that the podcast is fictitious.[1][4] The podcast, according to Molly Osberg in *Vice*, occurs in a world that "isn't so much an alternate reality as [a world] that hovers comfortably adjacent to ours."[5] In addition to the regular episodes, Miles also produces a variety of supporting documents and interviews which he posts on the show's official website in order to lend plausibility to the notion that the events of the show may be real.[3] *Tanis* mimics the successful format of the earlier nonfictional investigative podcast *Serial*, notably its "unpretentious narrative style and mystery 'plot'".[2] It is one of a spate of podcasts released in the wake of *Serial*'s first season in 2014 that remixed those elements of *Serial* with the horror and mystery genres, other such podcasts including *Alice Isn't Dead*, *ars Paradoxica*, and *Tanis* sister show *The Black Tapes*.[2]

Themes

Themes of powerlessness and uneasy alliance with a (possible) enemy are present in *Tanis*'s narrative.[2] Michael J. Collins described a pattern in mystery horror podcasts of narrators existing within uncertain personal or professional situations, such as Silver's inconsistent work and sleep schedules, which mimic "the lifestyles of overworked, yet unremunerated, Millennials."[2] Collins wrote that *Tanis* evoked millennial economic unease when Silver accepts aid in his investigation from Tesla Nova Corporation and thus becomes complicit with the organization Silver believes may be responsible for the goings-on he is investigating.[2]

Episodes

The first season of *Tanis* premiered October 13, 2015, when the first two episodes were released. The third episode was released on October 19 and subsequent episodes have generally been released every two weeks, although episodes were released weekly in season five. The second season premiered April 20, 2016, and season three premiered February 21, 2017. The fourth season premiered February 28, 2018, with the fifth premiering September 2, 2020.[6]

Season 1

Episode	Title[6]	Release date[6]	Production code[6]
1	"Seeking Tanis, Runner Available"	October 13, 2015	101
2	"Radio, Radio"	October 13, 2015	102
3	"The Girl in the High Tower"	October 19, 2015	103
4	"The End of Rocketman"	November 3, 2015	104
5	"A Rat, a Writer and a Conspiracy Theory"	November 18, 2015	105
6	"The Servant Girl Annihilator"	December 1, 2015	106
7	"A Dungeon Masters Guide to Tanis"	December 16, 2015	107
8	"Raywood, WA: Population One"	January 6, 2016	108
9	"A Man, a Milkshake, and a Serial Murderer"	January 19, 2016	109
10	"The Grackles"	February 3, 2016	110
11	"Eld Fen"	February 17, 2016	111
12	"The Map"	March 2, 2016	112

Season 2

Episode	Title[6]	Release date[6]	Production code[6]
1	"The Wall"	April 20, 2016	201
2	"Levity Elks"	May 4, 2016	202
3	"Pacifica"	May 18, 2016	203
4	"The Alameter Line"	May 31, 2016	204
5	"A Message, a Manuscript, and a Russian Picnic"	June 15, 2016	205
6	"Phyreses and Aries"	June 29, 2016	206
7	"Devil's Fingers"	July 27, 2016	207
8	"The Map to Heaven"	August 10, 2016	208
9	"Was It the Red King, Kitty?"	August 23, 2016	209
10	"The Voice in the Darkness"	September 7, 2016	210
11	"Once More unto the Breach"	September 21, 2016	211
12	"We Get What We Deserve"	October 5, 2016	212

Season 3

Episode	Title[6]	Release date[6]	Production code[6]
1	"Frances Manners' Place in the Woods"	February 21, 2017	301
2	"The Office of Alien Property"	March 8, 2017	302
3	"An Artifact, an Adorcist, and an Asylum"	March 21, 2017	303
4	"The Lines of Alaise"	April 5, 2017	304
5	"Elements and Artifacts"	April 19, 2017	305
6	"Brother, Where Art Thou?"	May 3, 2017	306
7	"God in the Machine"	May 31, 2017	307
8	"The Second Barrier Study"	June 14, 2017	308
9	"The Taskers, the Smallwater, and Lovecraft's Friend"	June 28, 2017	309
10	"The Ath"	July 12, 2017	310
11	"Feathers or Fur?"	July 26, 2017	311
12	"Between There and Here"	August 9, 2017	312

Season 4

Episode	Title[6]	Release date[6]	Production code[6]
1	"The Russian Breach"	February 28, 2018	401
2	"The Pipes Are Calling"	March 13, 2018	402
3	"Gavdos, Ramtha, and the Atlas"	March 28, 2018	403
4	"The Earth Coincidence Control Office"	April 11, 2018	404
5	"Ra Ra Rasputin"	April 25, 2018	405
6	"The Faith of Flowers"	May 9, 2018	406
7	"Is the Hitchhiker Male or Female?"	June 6, 2018	407
8	"What I Think of When I Think of Green"	June 20, 2018	408
9	"Remote Control"	July 4, 2018	409
10	"Nobody Can Send Me a Letter"	July 18, 2018	410
11	"The Three In One God"	August 1, 2018	411
12	"Beyond the Real"	August 15, 2018	412

Season 5

Episode	Title[6]	Release date[6]	Production code[6]
1	"Pacifica Redux"	September 2, 2020	501
2	"The Garrison Anomaly"	September 9, 2020	502

3	"The Mourntree"	September 16, 2020	503
4	"Weaving Spiders Come Not Here"	September 23, 2020	504
5	"Dangerous Things, Magical Things, and All That"	September 30, 2020	505
6	"For the Harmonious Development of Man"	October 7, 2020	506
7	"The Heart of the Destroyer"	October 14, 2020	507
8	"Manhattan, Arachne, and an Angry Demon Tooth"	October 21, 2020	508
9	"Corpus Callosum"	October 28, 2020	509
10	"The Thing from Karsas"	November 4, 2020	510
11	"The Long Stone"	November 11, 2020	511
12	"The Fifth Gate"	November 18, 2020	512

Reception

Tanis received critical acclaim. Melissa Locker, writing in *The Guardian* described the podcast, as well as sister show *The Black Tapes*, as "compelling and wildly addictive."[1] The scholars Danielle Hancock and Leslie McMurtry described the podcast as "elegantly illustrat[ing] the new Gothic horror podcast paradigm" on account of its production value, attentiveness to the possibilities of the podcast format, and in-universe connections with traditional elements of Gothic fiction.[7] In *Bustle*, Lucia Peters praised the melding of real-world and fictional elements in *Tanis*'s narrative, calling the podcast "a fascinating, if somewhat confusing, ride."[8] *Tanis* peaked on the U.S. iTunes podcast download chart at number 11.[9]

Television adaptation

In 2017, Universal Cable Productions and Dark Horse Entertainment announced a deal to adapt *Tanis* for television, led by Miles and television writer Lee Shipman. Sam Raimi and Debbie Liebling will serve as the show's producers.[10]

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Further reading

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External links

- Official website (http://www.tanispodcast.com/)

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